

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on June 30, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1. Claim 1 is the independent claim. Claims 1-4 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Action has rejected claims 1 and 2 as being anticipated by *Chou* (US 006574120B1). It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

In the *Chou* patent, when the plug 41 is not in use, it loosely abuts the opening area. This is quite different from the present application's *selectively concealable* connection of the low profile plug (21) in the plug recess (15). That is, when the *Chou* plug 41 is fitted in the outlet 11, the plug will stand proud of the body to present an ugly, messy appearance, in addition to exposing the plug to damage. Thus, the present application differs from the *Chou* patent in that the former has a unique design, manufacture, function and use as regards to the location of the plug when not in use.

Moreover, in the present application, the plug (21) is retained when not in use in the recess (15) of the low-profile plug holder. This recess is *not electrically conductive*. In contrast, the 'outlet' (11) of the *Chou* patent is clearly electrically conductive.

Further, the rectangular hole (152) of the present application is formed on a bottom of the plug recess. In contrast, the rectangular outlet holes of the cited reference are not disposed on a bottom of a plug recess. Moreover, these rectangular outlet holes do not have a length that is slightly shorter than the distance between the two conducting prongs. Instead, *Chou* shows *pairs* of rectangular slots that match with the pins of a plug. In contrast, the present application has a *single slot to receive both pins*. A user will thus find it easier to

insert the *two pins into the single slot* as it does not require the precise alignment of two pins in separate slots. Therefore, when the cable is not in use, the user will find it easier to insert the plug in the plug recess (15), than in the outlet (11) of the *Chou* patent. Thus, the present application differs in construction, function and use of the plug socket for storage of the plug.

Additionally, claim 1 also recites that a cord groove is arcuately formed in the bottom external surface and between the plug recess and the outer edge of the hollow body. Thus, the extension cord (20) may be received in the arcuate cord groove, which provides a non-kinking function. In contrast, the cited reference does not disclose or suggest such a groove. It is thus submitted that claims 1 and 2 are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited reference, and it is requested that these claims be allowed, and that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Action has also rejected claims 3 and 4 as being obvious in view of *Chou* in view *Khubani* (USP US00D485744S). It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

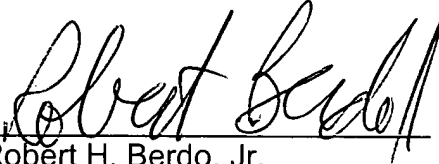
Khubani is directed towards a hosepipe for water which is of a field quite different to the electrical cord of the present application. Moreover, this reference has the same deficiencies as *Chou*. As such, it is submitted that claims 3 and 4 are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and it is requested that these claims be allowed, and that this rejection be withdrawn.

In accordance with the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record, taken in any proper combination. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in a condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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